## LIGO Timeline

1979

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds a new group at Caltech for laser interferometer research and a prototype interferometer. It funds MIT to complete its prototype and design and lead industry study of technology, costs and sites for a kilometer-scale interferometer.

1984

LIGO founded as a Caltech/MIT project. National Science Board approves LIGO development plan.

1990

The National Science Board (NSB) approves LIGO construction proposal, which envisions initial interferometers followed by advanced interferometers.

1994-95

Site construction begins at Hanford and Livingston locations.

1970's

Early work on gravitational-wave detection by laser interferometers, including a 1972 MIT study describing a kilometer-scale interferometer and estimates of its noise sources.

1983

MIT and Caltech jointly present results of the kilometer-scale interferometer study to NSF. Receive NSF committee endorsement on new large programs in physics.

1986

Physics Decadal Survey and special NSF Panel on Gravitational Wave Interferometers endorse LIGO.

1992

NSF selects LIGO sites in Hanford, Washington, and Livingston, Louisiana. NSF and Caltech sign LIGO Cooperative Agreement.





